

NEWS NOTES OF CURRENT WEEK

Resume of World's Important Events Told in Brief.

The Middle West is having a severe snow storm.

Austria is said to have refused aid to Turkey in her present engagement with the allies' fleet.

M. F. Berry, originator of the present system of express and postal money orders, is dead.

The Minnesota legislature has refused to submit a woman suffrage amendment to the people.

The British now claim that the war will be short, and that their artillery, once weak, now dominates.

Bombardment of Turkey by the allied fleets continues and the probable results are that Constantinople will fall.

Having "abstained" during all of February, the moon will be full twice during March. This is the first occurrence since 1846.

A prominent St. Paul clubwoman drops dead in the statehouse of that state just after appealing to the legislature for prison reforms.

The officials of the city of Portland have figured that the earnings of the jitney busses total \$2.57 per day. There are 337 cars in use.

Operation of the New York State alien law was suspended by the Supreme court. It was contended the building of the subway would be delayed by the law.

The German submarine U-8 has been sunk by destroyers belonging to the Dover flotilla, according to announcement by the minister of marine. The crew were taken prisoners.

Four fires broke out almost simultaneously in a horse and mule barn at Kansas City in which were 800 horses belonging to the British government. The horses were saved only by opening all the gates of the barn and driving the animals loose into the streets.

After two years of almost continuous session the 63d congress, which revised the tariff and the currency system of the nation, supplemented the trust laws, created an income tax and experienced the first popular election of United States senators, ended at noon March 4.

"Unless neutral nations are prepared to assist in throwing the Germans out of Belgium, no suggestions from them in the matter of preventing the further devastation of that country are wanted," said Sir Edward Grey, the foreign secretary, in the British house of commons.

William Willett's daylight saving bill, which was discussed in the British parliament in the spring of 1909, provided for the earlier use of daylight by putting forward the clock 20 minutes on four successive Sundays in April and reversing the process on four Sundays in September. This procedure, it was argued, would bring more time at the end of the day for recreation while the sun was still up. The measure never became law in England. The author of the bill has just died.

Further relief to Belgians from the United States is not guaranteed by the German government.

An English trawler was sunk in the English channel by a German mine. The crew of 11 men were saved.

Congress has re-convened and it is predicted that the session will hold until the gavel falls at noon March 4.

Many Americans traveling as "horse tenders" on vessels bound for England and France, with promise of good pay and return ticket, are stranded in those countries, and are appealing to the American consuls for assistance.

The exchange of maimed prisoners through Geneva began Wednesday with the arrival of 1800 Frenchmen and 800 Germans. The transfer was made under the auspices of the Swiss Red Cross society. The soldiers traveled in special coaches, which were guarded by the military. Approximately a ton of gifts were there awaiting the unfortunates, who probably will number from 4000 to 5000 men from each country.

The bill charging manslaughter against a provincial police officer and three Canadian soldiers who last fall fired on two American duck hunters, Walter Smith and Charles Dorsch, killing Smith and wounding his companion, was dismissed by the Welland county grand jury. The shooting, which resulted in diplomatic correspondence between the United States and Great Britain, occurred on the Niagara River. After a protest had been made by Washington the Dominion government paid to Smith's relatives \$10,000 and a lesser sum was given to Dorsch.

Germans Said Willing to Make Concessions

London.—A dispatch to Reuters Telegram company from Athens says: "The allied fleet Thursday bombarded and reduced to silence the forts of Dardanus, Hamidieh and Tchemerlik, on the Asiatic side of the inside Dardanelles. The telegraph station at Bizikali also was demolished.

"The bombardment was carried out by nine ships, which advanced two miles up the straits."

A Paris dispatch says the Havas News Agency gave out a dispatch confirming the report published in the Paris Matin that an allied fleet resumed the bombardment of the Dardanelles Tuesday morning.

This dispatch, dated at Athens March 2, reads:

"The bombardment of the interior fortifications of the Dardanelles was resumed this morning. The allies have a total of 52 warships on the scene. Five of them entered the straits. While this movement was going on four battleships began the bombardment of the Turkish positions fronting on the Gulf of Saros, which is separated from the Dardanelles by the Gallipoli Peninsula."

The admiralty issued the following report regarding the bombardment of the Turkish forts by the Anglo-French fleet:

"The operations in the Dardanelles were resumed at 11 o'clock Monday morning when the Triumph, Ocean and Albion entered the straits and attacked Fort No. 8 and the batteries at White Cliff. The fire was returned by the forts and also by field guns and howitzers.

"An air reconnaissance made by naval seaplanes in the evening brought the report that successful new gun positions had been prepared by the enemy but that no guns were erected in them. The seaplanes also located surface mines.

"During Monday night a force of minesweepers covered by destroyers swept within a mile and a half of Cape Kephez and their work which was carried out under fire, is reported to have been excellent."

Wilson's Trip to Canal Is Cut Off by Congress

Washington, D. C.—Many features of the elaborate exercises planned for the formal opening of the Panama canal in July will be abandoned as the result of the action of congress in refusing to make the appropriation for the purpose asked for by Secretary Garrison, of the War department.

The appropriation requested was to defray the expenses of a trip to the canal by President Wilson, members of congress, members of the diplomatic corps, representatives from foreign governments and other special guests, including ex-presidents Roosevelt and Taft. Provision also was to be made for a banquet and other entertainments on the Isthmus, for gold medals, souvenirs and for the printing of special invitations.

It was intimated here that the president himself would not go to the formal opening, which is planned for July, but it is possible that he may change his present plans. The Navy department has an appropriation for sending the fleet to the canal and it was said that some kind of exercises probably would be held.

All of the president's plans for the spring and summer months were said to be dependent on the international situation. While the prospects for his going by train to San Francisco later this month were said to be brighter, he will make no final arrangements for the present.

Three More Forts In Dardanelles Quit Action

Paris.—The following supplementary official statement was issued late Thursday by the French war office:

"It can be said that in the Argonne, where we had been constantly attacked since December, the roles in the last three weeks have been reversed. We have gained the indisputable ascendancy. The effect is salutary in these local actions, of which the Argonne is the theater, to feel that more and more the enemy is at our mercy and that our moral superiority is assured.

"We have obtained this result by a series of limited operations, energetically carried out, and although the German forces which confront us are extremely courageous we feel that at a given point and moment we are masters and can do what we wish."

The statement gives the details of one of these engagements, which it says, occur daily and show the splendid ardor of the troops.

"Action began in a ravine near Fontaine Madame at 8 o'clock in the morning," says the report, "five companies being charged with the attack. We exploded three mines under trenches of enemy, while our artillery crushed them under a hot fire. Three minutes later our columns debouched from branches of trenches and stormed the German works.

"We penetrated in three different quarters, killing all the occupants of the trenches, 75 infantrymen and about 30 prisoners. We took four wounded prisoners. At 8:30 o'clock we had gained at least 350 yards of the enemy's trenches."

Comet Is Coming Nearer.

Cambridge, Mass.—Mellish's comet, which is visible in the morning skies through a small telescope, is increasing in brilliancy and will make its perihelion passage around the sun on July 20, according to computations made by Professor Crawford and Miss Young of the Students' Observatory, Berkeley, Cal. This was announced at the Harvard Observatory Thursday.

WAR SERIOUSLY AFFECTS LONDON

Subtle Change Seen in General Feeling of People.

Army Seems to Fade Away, But Movement to Front Is Indicated—Nothing Is Said.

London.—London is settling down to the pace of war. Two months ago it was a common saying that the average Londoner behaved as though nothing were happening which involved him and his empire. The contrast between this imperturbable capital and closed, quiet, grief-stricken Paris, or paralyzed Brussels, struck the observer, sometimes, with a disagreeable sense of contrast.

Now it begins to look like a city at war. It is true that the shops are all open; it is true that theaters, hotels and concert-halls and cafes are running. But the change in London is a subtler thing than these mere external appearances show.

Most of all, one notices the lack of young men on the streets. In Paris, during October and November, the crowds gave a curious appearance of weakness, of languorous movement, which, upon analysis, proved to be due to that absence of young and lusty men. Then you came to London and found the streets full of vigorous, red-cheeked young Englishmen. That type is fast disappearing; the young men you see here, as in Paris, look characteristically small and weak—unfit material to go against the guns.

You begin to believe what many Englishmen whisper—that the Kitcheners army is larger than the authorities have let us know.

There's the feeling of war in the air, too, an indescribable sense of something very grave and serious afoot. I realized it most fully when I dined in one of the large and popular Piccadilly restaurants. Externally, the crowd looked about the same as ever, though the dining room was not so full as in normal times. There were the same well-groomed Englishmen in smart evening dress; there were the same not-quite-so-well-groomed English women in evening dress which ranged from smart to dowdy; there were the same liveried doorkeepers and attentive waiters. To the eye the only marks of war were the khaki uniforms—officers seizing a last, chance to take out their fiances or their families. Finally the music stopped, and I was struck by the silence. I thought at first that no one was talking at all. I had to strain my ears to perceive that they were all talking, but in subdued tones. An English dinner crowd is never noisy, but never before have I heard in a restaurant such quiet as this. The mood of England was in it, I think. They are going about the accustomed motions of life, but their hearts and their thoughts are in Flanders.

Great Britain Insists On Power of Navy

London.—The order-in-council putting the English declaration against German commerce into effect, it is said authoritatively, will explain the details as to how the admiralty will proceed in enforcing the sweeping order.

The exact date of the order has not yet been decided on, but it will probably be published in a few days.

Great Britain has not yet prepared her answer to the American note submitted to the British and German governments looking to the withdrawal of the submarine blockade and the continuance of food movements to Germany for civil population.

The publication of the text of the American note and Germany's reply in the London papers has attracted wide attention.

The English view, which will undoubtedly be embodied in the note to the American government, is that the suggestions propose that Great Britain virtually forego the strength of her position due to her superior navy. In other words, Great Britain feels that Germany is trying to have the neutrals perform duties for her which she could possibly carry out had she a superior navy.

Furthermore, the British government, it is asserted, will ask what assurance the United States can give that Germany would not resume her submarine activities after she had obtained sufficient food under the relaxed regulations to enable her to carry on the war indefinitely.

Land Grant Suit Advanced.

Washington, D. C.—The Oregon and California land grant suit will be argued before the Supreme court April 19, the court having advanced the case on motion of the attorney general.

Germany Is Closed to All Traffic by Allies

Washington, D. C.—By the "unlimited blockade" of their enemies, the allies hope to cut off their trade with the world, which prior to the war was valued as follows:

Germany, \$4,800,000,000.

Austria-Hungary, \$1,200,000,000.

Turkey, \$275,000,000.

The trade of these countries with the United States during the last year of peace was valued at:

Germany, \$535,000,000.

Austria-Hungary, \$51,000,000.

Turkey, \$12,263,000.

London.—If the combined fleets of Great Britain and France can prevent it no commodities of any kind except those now on the seas shall henceforth, until the conclusion of the war, reach or leave the shores of Germany.

This is England's answer to Germany's submarine blockade and it is to be effective forthwith.

Premier Asquith, reading from a prepared statement, made this announcement in the house of commons Tuesday afternoon at a session which will be historic. Studiously avoiding the terms "blockade" and "contraband"—for these words occur nowhere in the prepared statement—the premier explained that after this day the allies considered themselves justified in attempting, and would attempt, to "detain and take into port ships carrying goods of presumed enemy destination, ownership or origin."

The premier emphasized, however, that vessels and cargoes so seized were not necessarily liable to confiscation and begged the patience of neutral countries in the face of a step through which they were likely to suffer. He added that in making such a step the allies had done so in self defense. "We are quite prepared," he went on, "to submit to the arbitrament of neutral opinion and still more to the verdict of impartial history, that in the circumstances in which we have been placed we have been moderate; we have been restrained; we have abstained from things that we were provoked and attempted to do, and we have adopted a policy which commends itself to reason, to common sense and to justice."

Every member of the house not at the front in khaki or unavoidably detained was in his seat to hear the prime minister's speech and there was frequent cheering. The galleries were packed. When the premier concluded his set statements and, turning to the speaker, said, "That, sir, is our reply," there was a tremendous outburst.

Curiously, the German reply to the American note seeming to solve the situation growing out of Germany's declaration of a naval war zone, was handed to Ambassador Gerard at Berlin and Premier Asquith, in his speech said that Great Britain and her allies were carefully considering the American note to them on the same subject. That the British government had rejected the proposal, he declared, was "quite untrue."

Protestants, Catholics and Jews Sign Peace Letter

New York.—The Church Peace Union, founded a year ago by Andrew Carnegie, through its secretary, the Rev. Frederick Lynch, made public here a message which the union has addressed to "the churches and clergy of America," cautioning ministers and church people against partisanship in discussing the European war, and protesting against the present agitation for increased armaments. This is said to be the first time in church history that Catholics and Protestants have joined in signing a common letter addressed to the churches. The Peace Union's letter is signed by Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore, and Archbishop Glennon, of St. Louis. The president of the union is the Right Rev. David H. Greer, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of New York.

At the first meeting of the Church Peace Union on February 10, 1914, it was announced that Mr. Carnegie had made it an endowment of \$2,000,000, its aim being the furtherance of the cause of international peace through the united efforts of all religious bodies. Twenty-nine prominent clergymen and churchmen, representing all denominations, including Jewish organizations, were appointed trustees.

It is these men who have signed the message in question. Following is one of the striking paragraphs in the letter:

"Partisanship is adding fuel to fires of passion which already are too hot. Clergymen should ally prejudice, not intensify it. Each of the warring nations believes in the justice of its cause."

Utah House Votes Dry.

Salt Lake City.—The Wooten statewide prohibition bill passed the house by a vote of 40 to 5. It passed the senate about two weeks ago. The senate bill was amended by the house to prohibit the manufacture of wine for sacramental or personal use, and to make it effective July 1, 1916, instead of June 1, 1916.

SHIPS BOMBARD TURKISH FORTS

Constantinople to Be Taken By Allies at All Risk.

Minesweepers Clear Ship Channel and Heaviest Part of Great War Is Now Begun.

London.—Twenty-eight warships of the allied fleet entered the Dardanelles Saturday and bombarded the inner forts, according to a dispatch from the Athens correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph company. The message adds that a battleship bombarded a Turkish ship on the Gulf of Saros.

After having completed the destruction of the forts at the entrance of the Dardanelles, the allied fleet of British and French warships, the greatest which has ever been in action, is now attacking the chief forts, which heretofore have stood between Turkey and invasion by the sea.

Apparently the outer forts could not withstand a great bombardment, and when they had been leveled and deserted by their defenders, men were landed from the ships to complete the work of demolition, while mine-sweepers cleared a passage for ships in the straits.

More serious work is now ahead, for the all-important fortifications at Kilid Bahr and Chanak, which guard the narrowest part of the straits, which the fleet is now approaching. There is no doubt, however, that the allied commanders have their instructions to make their way to Constantinople in spite of obstacles and have been supplied with the best means of carrying out these orders.

American Liner Captured by French Warships

Paris.—A French cruiser has arrested the American steamer Dacia in the Channel and taken her to Brest. This announcement is officially made.

The steamship Dacia left Galveston for Rotterdam January 31 with 11,000 bales of cotton to be trans-shipped to Bremen. It was fully expected at that time that the ship would be seized on her way to Rotterdam.

Great Britain questioned the validity of the recent transfer of the Dacia from German to American registry. The Dacia touched at Norfolk February 11 and proceeded.

The Dacia was formerly a Hamburg-American freight steamship which had been used before the war in trade with Bremen and New Orleans and other Gulf ports. At the outbreak of the hostilities she was interned at Port Arthur, Tex.

The Dacia was bought on December 24 by an American and on January 4 American registry was obtained. It was then announced that she was to be used to relieve the cotton congestion and loading was begun with a cargo of cotton to be taken to Rotterdam and thence shipped to Bremen, where it was already sold.

Representations were made immediately by the British embassy at Washington, questioning the validity of the transfer of the interned vessel and it was generally understood that if she sailed she would be seized by British or French warships and taken before a prize court.

War Budget Yet Grows.

Berlin.—The Federal council adopted the preliminary budget estimates, including 10,042,000,000 marks (\$2,510,500,000) for extraordinary expenditures. This amount is for carrying on the war.

The estimates of ordinary expenditures are 3,323,000,000 marks (\$83,075,000). Almost all of the amount to be devoted to the war will be raised by loans.

The Cologne Savings bank has subscribed 20,000,000 marks and the Victoria Insurance company to \$30,000,000 of the new war loan.

Russians Dislodge Turks.

Petrograd.—Russian successes are reported in an official communication from the general staff of the army in the Caucasus. The statement says:

"On February 28, on a line from Trans-Choruk, our troops progressed with success, dislodging the Turkish forces from their positions.

"In the passes south of Alacherkerte our troops in an engagement seized two Turkish artillery pieces."

German Cruiser Gets Two.

London.—Lloyd's correspondent at La Concepcion, Chile, sends the following dispatch: "The steamer Skerries reports that the British bark Kid-almon and the French bark Jean were sunk by the German converted cruiser Prinz Eitel Frederick in December. The crews are at Easter Island and have refused to be taken off."